



trumpeter swan

Cygnus buccinator

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Aves
Order:	Anseriformes
Family:	Anatidae

Features

The trumpeter swan is North America's largest waterfowl (55 to 62 inches long with a wing span of seven feet). Adult birds are snow-white. Immature trumpeters are black and have a pink bill. The trumpeter swan's size, more resonant trumpet like voice, and large, black bill with a thin lipstick line distinguishes it from the tundra swan.

Natural History

The trumpeter swan lives in lakes, ponds, marshes, and sluggish rivers with lots of plants. It eats leaves, seeds, roots of aquatic plants, insects, and crustaceans. Its call is a loud low-pitched trumpeting (a low note followed by about three higher pitch notes). The trumpeter swan nests in dense marsh vegetation. Nests are used in successive years and may be six to 12 feet wide. Three to six cream or white eggs are laid. The young are fully feathered in about 10 weeks, but do not fly until they are 13 to 17 weeks old. The trumpeter swan was reported as

extinct in Iowa in 1933. Reintroductions of populations have been successful. Since 1994 over 500 young swans have been released in Iowa. It may or may not migrate. Trumpeters usually nest near release sites, but the population is expanding. It is an uncommon migrant.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes

Iowa Status

uncommon; native

Iowa Range

Summer: northern half of Iowa and scattered in southern Iowa in suitable habitats; Migrant: statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.